National Transportation Safety Board
PRELIMINARY REPORT
AVIATION

NTSB ID: ERA13TA261 Most Critical Injury: None

Occurrence Date: 05/30/2013 Investigated By: NTSB

Location/Time

 Nearest City/Place
 State
 Zip Code
 Local Time
 Time Zone

 Columbia
 MD
 21044
 2307
 EDT

Occurrence Type: Accident

Aircraft Information

Registration Number Aircraft Manufacturer Model/Series Number

N407HC BELL 407

Type of Aircraft: Helicopter

Amateur Built Aircraft? No

Injury Summary:

Fatal

Serious

Minor

None

4

Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No Air Medical Transport Flight: No

## Narrative

Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:

\*\*\* Note: NTSB investigators may not have traveled in support of this investigation and used data provided by various sources to prepare this public aircraft accident report. \*\*\*

On May 30, 2013, about 2307 eastern daylight time, a Bell 407, N407HC, was substantially damaged during an autorotation following a total loss of engine power at Columbia, Maryland. The commercial pilot and three crewmembers were not injured. The helicopter was registered to the State of Maryland and was operated by the Howard County Police Department, as a public use flight. Night, visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The local flight originated at Tipton Airport (FME), Fort Meade, Maryland, about 2010.

According to the operator, the helicopter was on a routine patrol flight on a heading of 130 degrees and at a speed of 120 knots. About 600 feet above the ground, the helicopter suddenly yawed to the left and the red "ENGINE OUT" warning light illuminated. The pilot commenced an autorotation for landing on a nearby high school football field. To avoid trees and a goal post, the pilot extended the glide path by raising the collective control. The helicopter landed hard on the football field and came to rest in an upright position. The pilot secured the rotor blades and engine and the crew exited the helicopter without injuries.

The wreckage was recovered and secured in a local hangar. The wreckage was examined by Federal Aviation Administration inspectors and investigators from the airframe and engine manufacturers. The damage was determined to be substantial, including a severed tail boom and damaged main rotor blades. Damage to the landing gear also resulted. The engine's electronic control unit (ECU) was removed from the engine and will be examined at the manufacturer's facilities. Updated on Jun 6 2013 5:41PM

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| National Transportation Safety Board |
| PRELIMINARY REPORT                   |
| ÁVIATION                             |

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| ANTATION                                      |                                 | Occurrence Date: 05/30/2013 |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------------------|----|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|
|   |                                 | Occurre                     | Occurrence Type: Accident |       |                  |                                | 1  |                    |        |       |        |
| Other Aircraft Involved                       |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Registration Number                           | Aircraft Manufacturer           |                             |                           |       | Model/Series Num |                                |    |                    | nber   |       |        |
| Accident Information                          |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Aircraft Damage: Substantial                  | dent C                          | Occurred Durin              | ng:                       |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
|   |                                 |                             | •                         |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Crew  | Name                            |                             |                           |       | Certificate No.  |                                |    |                    | Injury |       |        |
| Pilot   |                                 |                             |                           |       | 1                |                                |    | None               |        |       |        |
| 2   |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| 3   |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| 4   |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| 5   |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| 6   |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Operator Information                          |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Name<br>Howard County Police Depart           | Desig                           | Doing Business As           |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
|   |                                 |                             | ity<br>AURE               |       |                  |                                |    | Zip Code<br>20723- |        |       |        |
| -Type of Certificate(s) Held: None            |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):         |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Operating Certificate: Operator Certificate:  |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Public Use |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Type of Flight Operations Conducted:          |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Flight Plan/Itinerary                         |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Type of Flight Plan Filed: None               |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Last Departure Point                          |                                 |                             |                           | State | Airport          | Identifier                     |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Fort Meade                                    |                                 |                             |                           |       | MD               | FME                            |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Destination                                   |                                 |                             |                           | State | Airport          | Identifier                     |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Same as Accident/Incident Lo                  | cation                          |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Weather Information                           |                                 |                             |                           |       |                  |                                |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Investigator's Source: Internet               | Investigator's Source: Internet |                             |                           | Faci  | lity ID: BWI     | Observation Time (Local): 2254 |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Cle               | ear                             |                             |                           |       | Ft. /            | AGL                            |    |                    |        |       |        |
| Lowest Ceiling: None                          |                                 |                             | Ft. AGL                   | V     | /isibility:      | 10                             | SM | Altin              | neter: | 30.13 | "Hg    |
|   | PRELIMINARY                     | INFORI                      | MATION                    | - SUI | ВЈЕСТ ТО С       | CHANC                          | ЭE |                    |        |       | Page 2 |

## National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT

NTSB ID: ERA13TA261

| FRELIVINARI REFORI                          |            | Occurrence Date: 05/30/2013 |                    |   |      |  |  |  |  |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|------|--|--|--|--|
| AVIATION                                    |            |                             | ırrence T          | ype: Accident   |      |  |  |  |  |
| Weather Information (Continued from page 2) |            |                             |                    |   |      |  |  |  |  |
| Temperature: 26 °C                          | Dew Point: | 19°C                        | °C Wind Direction: |   |      |  |  |  |  |
| Wind Speed: Calm Kts                        | Gusts:     | Kts.                        | Weathe             | eather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions |      |  |  |  |  |
| Administration Data                         |            |                             |                    |   |      |  |  |  |  |
| Notification From                           |            |                             |                    |   | Date |  |  |  |  |
| FAA AEA ROC                                 |            |                             |                    |   |      |  |  |  |  |
| FAA District Office/Coordinator             |            |                             |                    | Investigator-In-Charge (                              | IIC) |  |  |  |  |
| FAA/FSDO<br>Richard I. Jones                |            |                             |                    | Ralph E. Hicks  |      |  |  |  |  |
|   |            |                             |                    |   |      |  |  |  |  |